

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 09430 141249Z

46

ACTION NEA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W

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R 141150Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9925

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 9430

USIAC

STATE FOR NEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: CONTINUED OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ON PRESS

CENSORSHIP IN INDIA

BEGIN SUMMARY: MRS. GANDHI CONTINUES TO DEFEND PRE-CENSORSHIP OF NEWSPAPERS ADDING THAT CENSORSHIP "REGULATIONS WILL BE CONSTANTLY REVIEWED." END SUMMARY.

1. MOST MONDAY NEWSPAPERS (JULY 14) CARRIED PARTIAL TEXT OF MRS. GANDHI'S INTERVIEW WITH SUNDAY TIMES AND LONDON OBSERVER SAYING EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DECLARED TO MEET THE "EXTRA-CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGE CONSTITUTIONALLY." TYPICAL HEADLINE: "NO DEADLINE FOR ENDING EMERGENCY" (HINDUSTAN TIMES).

2. BASED ON PRESS TRUST OF INDIA AND REUTER REPORTS, STORY QUOTED MRS. GANDHI THAT SHE WAS A STRONG BELIEVER IN FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND ABHORRED CENSORSHIP. BUT THE CURRENT STRICTURES WERE NECESSARY BECAUSE THE PRESS HAD NOT BEEN RESPONSIBLE ENOUGH AND MANY LEADING NEWSPAPERS WERE SPEARHEADING A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND UNDERMINING THE MORALE AND SELF-CONFIDENCE

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OF THE COUNTRY.

3. RULING OUT NATIONALIZATION OF NEWSPAPERS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS WILL BE CONSTANTLY REVIEWED.

4. STORIES APPEARING ON JULY 13, BASED ON UNITED NEWS OF INDIA DISPATCHES, REPORTED MRS. GANDHI'S ACCUSATION THAT A LARGE SECTION OF THE INDIAN AND FOREIGN PRESS ONLY HIGHLIGHTED POVERTY IN INDIA WHEREAS SIMILAR CONDITIONS EXISTED EQUALLY IN ASIA, AFRICA, AND PART OF AMERICA.

5. MOST NEWSPAPERS ON JULY 12 QUOTED A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN THAT A SECTION OF THE FOREIGN PRESS SEEMS TO HAVE MISTAKEN THE COVER NAMES OF THE FOUR BANNED OPPOSITION PARTIES AS SEPARATE ENTITIES. HEMSING

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** POLITICAL REPRESSION, CENSORSHIP, JOURNALISTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 JUN 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <22 MAR 2004 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINT, IN, (GANDHI, INDIRA)  
**To:** USIA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006